



Congressman

**Wally
Herger**

Reports from Washington

106th Congress — First Session

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Dear Friends:

This spring, I held a series of twelve Town Hall meetings throughout our Northern California Congressional District. These meetings were among the most heavily attended ever, and I would like to thank all of you who took time out of your busy schedules to share your views with me. I would also like to thank the thousands of Northern Californians who returned the questionnaire printed in the last newsletter. Your input is crucial for effective representation in Washington.



**California's Second
Congressional
District**

The 106th Congress is off to an exciting and productive start. Recently, the House overwhelmingly passed a Social Security "Lockbox" bill — legislation I authored — that will protect the surplus dollars in the Social Security Trust Fund from being spent on other government programs. For more than thirty years, Washington has been raiding the surpluses in Social Security for new government spending and to mask the size of our budget deficits. With the passage of my Lockbox legislation, the House of Representatives is taking the first necessary step to greater governmental honesty and accountability. I am committed to working for all Northern Californians to ensure Social Security will be available not just for today's seniors, but for generations to come.

There's good news for our hard-working families, too. Due to a \$400 (\$500 in future years) per child tax credit enacted as part of the "Taxpayer Relief Act" in the last Congress, an estimated \$32,680,000 will remain in our Northern California Congressional District rather than being sent to Washington, DC. As a member of the House tax-writing committee, I worked to ensure this measure was signed into law. This money can be used for groceries, child care, doctor bills, and other family-related expenses, rather than increasing the size of the federal government.

Throughout this summer, Congress will consider an ambitious schedule, including new tax relief, improvements to our nation's retirement system, strengthening our national defense, paying down the national debt, and substantive education proposals that return power and resources to parents, teachers, and local school boards. As always, I would encourage you to continue sharing your thoughts and views with me on what actions Congress should take.

Sincerely,